

THE WEATHER.

Fair weather, freezing in the morning, followed by slowly rising temperature; light to fresh northwesterly winds.

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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, 1897—EIGHT PAGES.

THE TIMES'S CIRCULATION

YESTERDAY WAS

38,210

COPIES.

ONE CENT.

FIGHTING AROUND MALAXA

Insurgents Have Captured the Town and Fired Houses.

THE TURKS ARE OUTCLASSED

Driven From the Blockhouse by the Greeks—Dynamite Used to Demolish Houses—British Highlanders Came Near Being Fired Upon in Candia.

Candia, March 25.—The fighting in the vicinity of Malaxa continued throughout the day. It was especially desperate at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the village of Tsalanara, where the insurgents set fire to a number of Turkish houses.

The insurgents are now occupying Malaxa. The European warships shelled them this afternoon, the firing lasting ten minutes.

The insurgents, however, held their ground close to the ruins of the blockhouse from which they drove the Turkish garrison last night, and did not seem to greatly mind the bombardment.

When the Turkish troops evacuated the blockhouse they set fire to it, in order that it might not furnish a shelter to their enemies. It was, however, badly wrecked by the fire of the rebels.

It is evident that the Turkish troops here are no match for the insurgents. A body of troops made an attempt today to gain the heights above Nerok-Oura, where the Keratoli blockhouse is situated. With this position and the one at Malaxa in their possession the insurgents would be able to completely blockade Candia from the land side.

The troops had gone only a little distance when they were attacked by insurgents, who drove them back. Later another attempt was made to reach the heights, but this, too, proved unsuccessful.

A body of insurgents made an attack upon the Turkish position at Halapa. The Turks had a number of mountain guns, and the fire from them prevented the insurgents from coming to close quarters. It was this alone which saved the Moslems from defeat.

Montevardia and Halapa are both within range of the guns of the insurgents, who continue to shell both places.

This evening part of Malaxa was blown up with dynamite, and the rest of the town is burning. The Turkish warships in Suda Bay are bombarding the insurgents, but their fire appears to be wholly ineffective.

Malaxa is one of the towns mentioned by the foreign admirals in their proclamation, issued on Tuesday, that must not be attacked by the Greek troops or insurgents.

The admirals declared that the fortifications which were needed to "maintain security and quiet" must not be fired upon, otherwise they would use force against the attackers.

It was the disobedience of the insurgents to this proclamation that led the foreign warships to bombard them. These vessels fired many shells, three of which fell within the town.

After the place had been evacuated by its Turkish garrison, which numbered sixty-four men, the troops scattered in all directions that led to the coast in order to escape from their pursuers.

One of them reached Nerok-Oura and eighteen managed to make their way to Suda. The others have not been heard from, and it is supposed that they were killed.

The Moslems here, and they comprise almost the entire population, are in a state of great excitement. They fear that the insurgents, excited by their capture and destruction of Malaxa, will attack Keratoli.

A force of 500 Highlanders were landed at Candia today and their appearance in the city caused the most intense excitement. The populace were evidently ignorant of their coming until they were in the town.

The Turkish troops were also at a loss to account for their presence, and apparently thought that they were about to be attacked. They were ordered to fire upon the British troops.

The garrison troops rushed to the shore from all directions, leading their rifles as they ran, and uttering threats against the British.

The latter remained perfectly cool and eventually the irritation was calmed. All danger, however, is not over.

The Turkish troops do not appear to grasp the fact that the presence of the foreigners is practically the only thing that saves them from annihilation. Swarms of Turkish soldiers armed to the teeth are parading about the streets, giving voice to their fierce hatred of all infidels.

The slightest spark may at any moment produce a fatal outbreak. It would be a queer commentary on the Turkish gratitude to find the Greeks, for personal as well as other reasons, and that his resignation, which has been in the President's hands ever since the inauguration, will be accepted speedily, and his successor named. The situation in Cuba is said to be harassing to the consul general, and his resignation is expected.

The administration is daily adding to the precautions against an infringement of the neutrality laws, the latest step being to notify the customs officers to guard against the exportation of the munitions of war to the Cubans, and to exercise diligence in the enforcement of the regulations, to which emphasis was recently given in the Executive order as to the clearance of vessels for foreign ports.

STRUCK BY A TRAIN.

Sandy Jones, a Hunker, Narrowly Escaped Death.

Sandy Jones, a colored hunker, living at Alexandria, was struck by an engine on the road between here and that city yesterday morning while coming into town with a load of produce.

The train was moving slowly, which fact alone prevented a serious accident. Jones was knocked from his seat and thrown to the ground, but was not seriously injured.

Adjourned Without Action.

The National Soldiers' Home Board adjourned yesterday without taking any action on the case of Andrew J. Smith, governor of the Soldiers' Home at Leavenworth, Kan. The board will meet a month from now at Dayton, Ohio. The present meeting was badly crippled by the illness and absence of members and did little or nothing.

Mantels, Any Size, \$1.00 Apiece. Libbey & Co., 6th st. and New York ave. if

VASSOS SPREADING REPORTS.

He Tells the Cretans of the Powers' Plans.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—Advice received here show that Col. Vassos is busy spreading a report among the Cretan insurgents that the powers wish to deliver them into the hands of the Turks.

The Greeks themselves openly declare that their aim is to set Europe by the ears, but that is well known here, and is being thoroughly refuted.

If the Greeks continue to prove stubborn they will probably receive a notification that in case they force the situation by compelling the Turks to an attack, they need expect neither help nor sympathy.

TURKS COME DOWN.

Turks Ordered to Take Them From Prevesa Fortifications.

Athens, March 25.—Advice that have been received here show that the Turks, in accordance with instructions from Constantinople, have begun to dismantle the guns placed by them upon the fortifications at Prevesa, on the Turkish side of the Gulf of Arta.

These fortifications were constructed in direct violation of the provisions of the treaty of Berlin, and the commander of the Greek fleet a few days ago notified the Turkish commander that if the guns were not dismantled he would bombard the works.

The order concludes: "The enterprise will be undertaken upon will be difficult and often painful. We rely upon you to defend the interests of humanity and the honor of our flag."

Will Command the Greeks.

Athens, March 25.—The crown prince will start at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning for Thessaly, where he will take command of the Greek troops. The early hour at which he will leave the city is due to a desire to avoid a demonstration.

The United States to Greece.

Athens, March 25.—The resolution recently adopted by the Senate of the United States, expressing sympathy with Greece in her struggle in behalf of the Cretan Christians, arrived here today.

LEE AND THE RUIZ CASE

It Is Denied That He Refuses to Pursue the Inquiry.

State Department Officials Say There Has Been No Correspondence Upon That Point.

It was denied yesterday at the State Department that there had been any intimation from Consul General Lee of his purpose to refuse to have any part in a second investigation of the Ruiz case at Havana.

It was authoritatively stated that there had been no recent correspondence with Gen. Lee touching that question, and also that he had not been given any instructions as to the re-investigation.

It is nevertheless believed that Gen. Lee is active in entering upon an inquiry which from the very nature of affairs must eventually result in the clearing of the Spanish authorities and their subordinates from responsibility for the death of Dr. Ruiz. There is no longer any doubt, it is said, of the fact that the dead man had a rightful claim upon this country for protection, his citizenship having been thoroughly established, but the manner of his death cannot now be proved, since the witnesses are believed to be no longer accessible.

A story recently obtained currency that Gen. Lee had notified the State Department of his disinclination to pursue the investigation, for the reason stated. It was also alleged that Secretary Sherman had determined to copy the correspondence to that effect, and also all other correspondence which was in his bearing upon the subject, for submission to the President, and if, in the latter's judgment, it should not be incompatible with the public interests, the whole matter would be laid before Congress. It was a part of the story that Gen. Lee is anxious to be relieved of his position at Havana, for personal as well as other reasons, and that his resignation, which has been in the President's hands ever since the inauguration, will be accepted speedily, and his successor named. The situation in Cuba is said to be harassing to the consul general, and his resignation is expected.

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AN APPEAL DIRECTED.

New York Traffic Association Case to Go Higher.

Attorney General McKenna has directed District Attorney MacFarlane, at New York, to take an appeal from the decision of the circuit court of appeals, delivered at New York last Friday, in favor of the Joint Traffic Association, composed of Eastern trunk lines. This case is closely allied to that of the Trans-Missouri Freight Association, in which the United States Supreme Court last Monday held that the anti-trust law was constitutional.

When the papers in the appeal arrive here the Attorney General will ask the Supreme Court to advance the case so that it can be heard at the present term.

Nominations Confirmed.

The Senate has confirmed the following nominations:

Boyd B. Jones, United States attorney for the district of Massachusetts.

Bernard Bettman, collector of internal revenue for the first district of Ohio.

Chester H. Brush, of Connecticut, to be recorder of the General Land Office.

BUTCHER SEVEN HUNDRED

Another Horrible Massacre of Armenians by the Moslems.

GREAT BRITAIN CALLS A HALT

Ambassador Currie Sends the "Strongest Note" of Protest to the Sultan—Turkish Officials Implicated Immediately Dismissed.

Constantinople, March 25.—Accurate details of the recent massacre of Armenians at Tokat, in the Sivas district of Anatolia, have been received at the Armenian patriarchate here. The first report of the affair was issued by the government. This declared that fifteen Armenians and three Muslims had been killed. Little reliance was placed in the report, for the officials have always made it a rule to understate the number of persons killed in the various massacres.

Later information was received at the embassies showing that fully 100 defenseless Armenians had fallen victims to the fury of the Moslems at Tokat, and this number, it was thought, was probably correct. The news received today at the patriarchate shows that both statements were incorrect and that the number of victims stated is without doubt correct.

Sir Philip Currie, the British ambassador, made a most vigorous protest against the massacre in a note to the Porte, a note which was said to have been the strongest ever delivered by an ambassador to the Turkish government. The result of his action was shown today, when the sultan ordered the dismissal and immediate arrest of the Turkish officials in Tokat who are suspected of complicity in the massacre and the appointment of a special commission to try them.

It is believed that the British ambassador will watch the trial closely to see that it does not prove a farce, as so many trials of Moslem officials charged with the murders of Christians have been. Mr. Ormanian, the Armenian patriarch, has made a protest to the sultan against the murders at Tokat, and has asked force to his protest by insisting that the sultan should accept his resignation, which was tendered some time ago. At that time the sultan refused to accept it, and promised the patriarch that further concessions would be made to the Armenians.

At this point, there is not a single bridge left in this country. The iron bridge across the Kinchoonoo creek, recently built jointly by Doughty and Lee counties, and costing \$8,000, was swept away last night without a vestige being left.

The bridge of the Albany and Northern Western, the people there being compelled to go about in boats. The road will hardly be running before Monday, as there are several bad washouts on that line, and the trestle across Nottoway Creek is entirely submerged.

Newton, the county seat of Baker, is a regular Venice, the people there being compelled to go about in boats. The freshet has done thousands of dollars damage, and it will be some time before its effects will be overcome.

INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS.

Civil Service Commission Explains the Application of Rules.

In response to a Senate resolution, the Civil Service Commission yesterday sent to the Senate copies of all its orders, etc., relative to the application of the civil service rules to the operations of the engineer department under the War Department.

This class was put under the civil service by President Cleveland May 6, 1896. The commission, at some length, shows what the law is and how persons are employed, and adds that, so far as the commission is concerned, there has been no cause for delay or embarrassment in filling vacancies or in carrying on the operations in charge of the department. With respect to the future, the commission says it does not see how the provisions of the civil service law can interfere with or embarrass the operations of the department.

The commission says that it believes, when its plans have been perfected, the operations of the engineer department will be conducted in a better manner than under the old system.

MR. CHILTON'S AMENDMENT

He Advocates It With a Great Deal of Warmth.

Mr. Morgan Says Any General Scheme of Arbitration Is a Snare and a Pitfall.

The debate on the arbitration treaty yesterday afternoon was of short duration. Mr. Chilton spoke for almost an hour on his amendment to the first article, which amends that article so as to provide that only such matters shall be submitted to arbitration as the Senate then in existence may deem proper for arbitration.

Mr. Chilton attacked his amendment with a great deal of warmth, and contended that if, as had been asserted, the terms of the treaty were interpreted as meaning this, there could be no good objection raised to the insertion of words that made that interpretation unmistakable. It was in the interest of clearness and should be accepted as such by all friends of the treaty. Without his modification, Mr. Chilton said, the United States might in the future be charged with violating its treaty obligations if it refused to submit certain matters of difference between the two countries. He did not want the United States to be placed in an embarrassing position of this kind and deemed it the part of prudence to make the text of the convention so perfectly plain that there would be no quibbling over what it means or what the Senate had in mind when the treaty was agreed to, if it should be agreed to. The debates were secret and in the future the cold, hard text of the treaty would alone be accepted as the expression of what was intended when the convention was ratified and proclaimed to the world.

Mr. Morgan again spoke in favor of the amendment, and took the occasion to express his displeasure at any proposed treaty with Great Britain that had for its purpose any general scheme of arbitration. The whole thing was a snare and a pitfall, and if there were sufficient votes in the Senate to ratify the convention, Senator Morgan said he wanted it made as nearly perfect as possible.

Messrs. Gray, Davis, Hoar, and Lodge intervened. Mr. Chilton with questions tending to show that his conclusions were erroneous. They also injected statements in support of the committee amendments, which had been agreed to, as being sufficient to cover every possible criticism that could be made against the treaty. Senator Gray took the floor in opposition to the Chilton amendment, after Mr. Morgan had concluded, but not desiring to go on today, the Senate came out of executive session and resumed the consideration of legislative business.

Passed the Assembly.

Albany, N. Y., March 25.—Both anti-trust bills introduced by the Lexow trust investigating committee have passed the assembly without amendment. They now go to the Senate for action.

Blinds, \$1: Small Sizes, 75c a Pair. Libbey & Co., 6th st. and New York ave. if

A NEW PARTY LAUNCHED.

Free Silver Republicans of Nebraska Meet at Lincoln.

Lincoln, Neb., March 25.—A new political party was launched in Nebraska today. It is composed of members who have heretofore affiliated with the Republicans, but last November voted for W. J. Bryan for President on the currency question alone.

The convention which met in Lincoln this afternoon was not largely attended. Charles Woodson, a member of the lower house of the legislature, was made chairman. The present name, Free Silver Republicans of Nebraska, was retained. Judge D. D. Gregory, of Omaha, was made the Nebraska member of the national committee, and a State organization was effected.

Six Congressional district committees were also selected and arrangements perfected for carrying on an active campaign. Contrary to expectations, Mr. Bryan was not present.

WATERS CREEPING HIGHER

Kaw River Squatters Take Refuge on the Bluffs.

A Veritable Mill Race Rushing Through Birds' Point, Mo.—Every House in Village Threatened.

Kansas City, Mo., March 25.—The Missouri River is within 2 1/2 feet of the danger line today, and the indications are that it will go at least one foot higher by tomorrow morning. The bottom at the mouth of the Kaw River is overflowed, and the squatters have been compelled to take refuge on the bluffs.

The Belt Line Railway tracks are under water in places, and serious trouble is feared. The Armour Packing Company has been forced to leave their homes. A large number of men are at work strengthening the levees. Should the water go three feet higher it will overflow the banks.

Beardstown, Ill., March 25.—The river is now above high water mark, and the roads leading to this city are under water to a depth of ten inches in places. A number of the people living on the low lands have been obliged to leave their homes.

Hedena, Ark., March 25.—Another break in the levee at Fifteen Mile Bayou, nine miles below Dover, is reported this morning. It is now over 200 feet in width and about four feet deep.

Assistant United States Engineer Nottoway arrived from this point this morning and states that in his opinion all the White River levee system, from Moccasin south will eventually go to pieces.

Charleston, Mo., March 25.—Several huge breaks in the levee at Birds' Point have occurred this morning, and a current of water as strong as a mill race is rushing through the center of that village. Already a dozen houses have been swept from their foundations, and it now looks as if there will not be a building left in the place.

Fortunately the dwellers had ample warning and removed most of their household goods and merchandise.

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WEST FOR COMMISSIONER

The President Said to Have Decided to Appoint Him.

A STANCH SILVER DEMOCRAT

The Young Newspaper Man Has Been Strongly Urged for the Place—The Probabilities Are That Mr. Chapin Brown Will Be the Republican Member.

Mr. Henry Littlefield West, a stanch silver man, is to be Democratic Commissioner to succeed Mr. John W. Ross, if President McKinley does not change his mind between now and the time he makes the nomination to the Senate. This may be stated on the authority of Senators and Members of Congress who have seen the President in Mr. West's behalf.

This appointment was not sought by Mr. West. In Mr. West's case this is an actual statement of fact. It is said that he had not thought of the position when his name was first mentioned, and that since then he has done no lobbying. He has been supported for the position, however, by Democratic and Republican Senators and Members and business men of a number and importance that must be extremely gratifying to him.

It is said that Mr. West has, more than anything else, his youth and his integrity to thank for this appointment. The President is known to have desired a man for the position upon whom there could rest the slightest shadow of cooperation or real estate of other influence, a man who would be absolutely independent. The new Commissioner has a large amount of youthful energy in his favor, too, and this the President likes. Mr. West will be able to work hard on the city problems and to accomplish things for us.

The other factor that has made this gentleman a good man for the place is his thorough knowledge of District affairs. It is probable that no one else in Washington is better acquainted with the city than he. His newspaper work has brought him into contact with and intimate relations with all branches of the Government, and with the people who have had it in charge. He has had the confidence of all these people, and has obtained inside knowledge.

Mr. West was born in New York, but came to Washington when he was six years old. His father, Robert A. West, who was formerly on the Commercial Advertiser, came down to Washington to take charge of the Chronicle, then Mr. Forney's paper. He lived in Georgetown, and when he was thirteen years old started his newspaper career on the weekly Georgetown Courier. He has been in the business ever since, and is now thirty-eight years old.

He has been a silver man from the beginning, and has written ably and fearlessly in defense of the white metal on every occasion. Mr. West is an intimate personal friend of William Jennings Bryan, and will unquestionably receive Mr. Bryan's telegram of congratulations when that gentleman writes copy of the Times.

Young West is a slender gentleman with a close cropped sandy beard, of a light blue eye, and he has a newspaper man's air. Besides being an authority on silver and on politics in general, one of the best in Washington, he is a thorough musician and dramatic critic, with accurate technical knowledge. His writings have grace, and humor, too, when humor is desirable as well as force.

The new Republican member of the commission will probably be Mr. Chapin Brown, who is also a young man, only forty-two years old. Mr. Brown was born in Maine, but has lived in Washington for thirty years. He was educated at Columbia University, and is now president of the alumni of that institution.

Mr. Brown is a prominent member of the Washington bar and has frequently been mentioned in connection with vacancies on the bench. His ability as a lawyer is universally recognized.

He is a good citizen of Washington and has identified himself with many of the city's important movements. He has been a trustee and trustee of the Girls' Reform School. During the recent inaugural preparations and festivities he was an active member of the general executive committee.

The prospective Republican Commissioner is a handsome man with a genial and companionable smile and a fine growth of curly whiskers. It is said by his friends that both the smile and the whiskers are reflections of the perfection of the gentleman himself.

A Building to Themselves.

New York, March 25.—A two-days' session of the board of directors of the National Cycle Board of Trade was concluded today. The directors of the Tennessee Centennial and International Exhibition, to be held at Nashville, Tenn., applied for sanction to enable the members of the board to exhibit bicycles at this show, and have expressed a willingness to set aside an exclusive building for the exhibition of bicycles. The sanction asked for was unanimously granted.

The Cuban Budget.

London, March 25.—A dispatch to the Times from Havana, which that paper will publish tomorrow, says that the Cuban budget for the ensuing fiscal year places the ordinary expenses at \$38,900,000 and the extraordinary expenses at \$2,000,000. It is estimated that the revenue will amount to \$30,000,000, but it will probably not exceed \$15,000,000.

Burned to Death.

Rockland, Me., March 25.—Mrs. Elizabeth Pease, aged seventy-five years, was burned to death Wednesday afternoon at the home of her daughter in Appleton. The old lady was alone in the room, when she attempted to light her pipe with a shaving and her clothing caught fire. She was partially demented, and made no outcry. She was dead when assistance arrived.

Libeled for Salvage.

Halifax, March 25.—The British steamer Orithia, which was towed into port Tuesday by the British steamer Indralena, has been libeled by the latter steamer for salvage. The amount claimed is \$25,000.

Gave Testimony to Order.

New York, March 25.—Charles C. Gibson, a private detective, was tonight found guilty of perjury in general sessions. Gibson was charged with giving false testimony in the trial of George Shady for a divorce from his wife Georgianna.

HUNTER CANNOT BE ELECTED.

Several of His Supporters Ready to Desert Him.

Louisville, Ky., March 25.—A dispatch from Frankfort, Ky., to the Courier-Journal says: Dr. W. G. Hunter cannot be elected United States Senator and he might as well withdraw. Senator Stege, of Louisville, has notified Dr. Hunter that he will not vote for him again, and three other supporters will leave him Saturday unless he can show that he can win. Senator Stege has paired with Senator Fulton until Monday. They will leave Frankfort today.

Stege is a millionaire distiller, and singly told Hunter that he was not going to waste any more time voting for him.

The second joint ballot for United States Senator was taken at noon today without result. There were no changes from yesterday's vote except a closing up to Davis of gold Democrats.

Representative Nance, an anti-Hunter Republican, made a speech declaring that St. John Boyle was the real nominee. The vote was: Hunter, 67; Blackburn, 49; Boyle, 6; Davis, 13; Stone, 1.

The Republican State central committee did not attempt to do anything with Gov. Bradley this morning.

The fight has reached such an acute stage that detectives are watching members of the legislature, in order to frustrate at once any attempts at bribery.

The Hunter managers were afraid to attempt to force another ballot, and the joint session adjourned at 12:45 p. m.

IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE

Judge Dillon's Interpretation of the Railroad Decision.

Agreements Can Be Made Only With Connecting Lines—Even Reasonable Interstate Rates Barred.

New York, March 25.—Perhaps the most thorough review of the decision against the Trans-Missouri association agreement, and the most concise statement of the effects of that decision, was made today by former Judge John F. Dillon, himself a jurist of note.

He said: "Substantially three propositions were decided by the majority. First, that the provisions of the anti-trust act, so-called, on which the suit of the United States against the Trans-Missouri Freight Association was brought, extend to and embrace the business of interstate transportation by railroads; second, that the particular agreement of the eighteen companies which constituted the Trans-Missouri Freight Association is an agreement in restraint of interstate trade and commerce, and therefore violates the provisions of the anti-trust act; and, third, that the United States has a standing in a court of equity under that act to enjoin the violation of its provisions in a civil proceeding."

"I will not criticize or discuss the opinion of the court, but I am willing to state what it decides. On the first point it decides that all combinations which are in restraint of trade or commerce are prohibited by the anti-trust act, whether in the form of trusts or in any other form whatever, and that the anti-trust act covers, and in the opinion of the majority of the court, was intended to cover, common carriers by railroads."

"The next point decided by the court is that the particular agreement which was before the court, namely, the agreement which constituted the Trans-Missouri Freight Association, was an agreement which violated the provisions of the act as held by the court.